

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SWF-01 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-04 FRB-01 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-01 SP-02

STR-01 TRSE-00 LAB-01 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 SS-15

NSC-05 /059 W

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R 111452Z OCT 74 ZDK

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6072

INFO USMISSION USEC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L DUBLIN 1443

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EEC EI

SUBJ: CONSULTATIONS WITH IRISH DURING THEIR EC PRESIDENCY

SUMMARY: IN DISCUSSION OF PLANS FOR US/EC CONSULTATIONS DURING IRISH EC PRESIDENCY, FONOFF POLITICAL DIRECTOR EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT "RECIPROCITY." CONSULTATIONS WITH NATO OR WITH LARGER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES DO NOT, IN HIS VIEW, SUBSTITUTE FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH EC AS A BODY. IRISH HAVE ALSO NOTED MECHANICAL PROBLEMS THEIR SMALL STAFF WILL HAVE IN CHAIRING EC BODIES AND CONSULTING WITH US. WE HOPE THAT PROBLEMS CAN BE OVERCOME AND THAT US/EC CHANNEL CAN BE KEPT OPEN DURING IRISH EC
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PRESIDENCY. END SUMMARY

1. FOR LAST FEW MONTHS, WE HAVE BEEN RAISING QUESTION OF US/EC CONSULTATIONS IN EVERY TALK WITH SENIOR IRISH OFFICIALS. OUR BASIC LINE HAS BEEN TO EXPRESS HOPE THAT DURING IRISH EC PRESIDENCY (JAN-JUNE 1975), WE COULD WORK OUT EFFICIENT MEANS FOR CONTINUING CONSULTA-

TIONS THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE DURING PREVIOUS PRESIDENCIES. UNTIL OCT. 9, IRISH DID NOT REPLY IN SUBSTANCE, THOUGH THEY DID NOTE MAJOR ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS THEIR SMALL BUREAUCRACY WILL FACE.

2. DURING INFORMAL TALK OCT. 9, WE GOT BEGINNING OF A SUBSTANTIVE REPLY IN TALK WITH NOEL DORR, THE NEW IRISH POLITICAL DIRECTOR. HE EXPRESSED CONCERN WITH "RECIPROCITY" IN US/EC CONSULTATIONS. HE WAS NOT SO MUCH INTERESTED IN TOTAL INFORMATION FLOW FROM WASHINGTON AS IN CHANNELS IT HAS TAKEN. HE BELIEVED THAT US MIGHT HAVE CHOSEN TO ROUTE SOME INFORMATION TO NATO THAT SHOULD HAVE GONE TO EC INSTEAD. THIS WORRIED HIM NOT ONLY BECAUSE IRELAND IS A NON-MEMBER OF NATO BUT BECAUSE EC MUST DEVELOP ITS OWN IDENTITY. DORR ALSO BRIEFLY REFERRED TO US CUSTOM OF CONSULTING WITH LARGE EC MEMBERS RATHER THAN EC AS A UNIT.

2. IN REPLY, WE NOTED THAT US HAD LONG WANTED GOOD MEANS OF CONSULTING WITH EC BUT THAT THERE HAD IN PAST BEEN SOME CONCEPTUAL PROBLEMS ON EC SIDE. (WE DID NOT THINK IT NECESSARY TO MENTION THAT IRELAND HAD BEEN A LEADING OBJECTOR.) NOW, HOWEVER, WE HAD IMPRESSION THAT US/EC CONSULTATIONS WERE CONTINUING TO DEVELOP WELL DURING FRENCH PRESIDENCY, AND WE HOPED THAT IRELAND WOULD MAINTAIN THE TREND. A GOOD INTERCHANGE BETWEEN FONOFF AND EMB WOULD SEEM ONE OF BEST WAYS TO DIMINISH "RECIPROCITY" PROBLEM DORR MENTIONED. IN ADDITION, OF COURSE, WE HOPED IRISH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON WOULD BE ACTIVE IN SAME DIRECTION.

3. DORR SAID HE ALSO UNDERSTOOD THAT US/EC CHANNEL HAD WORKED WELL DURING FRENCH PRESIDENCY. HE SEEMED TO BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT WE WERE INTERESTED IN TALKING TO THE FRENCH AS FRENCH RATHER THAN AS EC PRESIDENT. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE NOTED RECENT DECISION TO HOLD US/FRENCH "SUMMIT."

4. COMMENT: SEEMS CLEAR THAT THERE WILL BE BOTH MECHANICAL AND SUBSTANTIVE PROBLEMS IN MAINTAINING AN EFFECTIVE US/EC CHANNEL DURING

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IRISH PRESIDENCY. UNLESS OTHERWISE INSTRUCTED, HOWEVER, WE PLAN TO KEEP CHANNEL AS FAR OPEN AS POSSIBLE, AND WE HOPE MOST OF THE PROBLEMS AT DUBLIN END CAN BE OVERCOME. AT WASHINGTON END, IRISH ARE WELL AWARE THAT THEIR EMBASSY IS WEAK, ALTHOUGH DORR DID NOT MENTION IT DURING THIS CONVERSATION.
MOORE

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